

SECRET INVASION™

THUNDERBOLTS

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MARTIN



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ONCE THEY WERE AMONG THE WORST EXAMPLES OF VILLAINY MANKIND HAD TO OFFER! BUT NOW, CONSCRIPTED BY THE COMMISSION ON SUPERHUMAN AFFAIRS, THEY HAVE BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO A FORCE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE! THEY ARE THE THUNDERBOLTS—FEDERAL MARSHALS, EMPOWERED TO TRACK DOWN AND BRING IN UNLICENSED, UNREGISTERED SUPERHUMAN OFFENDERS COAST-TO-COAST!

THUNDERBOLTS



NORMAN
OSBORN



MOONSTONE



PENANCE



RADIOACTIVE
MAN



VENOM



SWORDSMAN



BULLSEYE



SONGBIRD

AFTER MONTHS OF BOILING TEMPERS (AND SECRET MENTAL MANIPULATION), THE VARIOUS MEMBERS OF THE THUNDERBOLTS – INCLUDING THEIR “HANDLER” NORMAN OSBORN – ERUPTED INTO FULLY COSTUMED BATTLE.

ATTEMPTING TO ELIMINATE A THORN IN HER SIDE, MOONSTONE ATTACKED THE VISITING PSYCHOLOGIST DOC SAMSON, BUT WAS INSTEAD STOPPED BY SAMSON’S PATIENT, PENANCE.

A RAMPAGING OSBORN, GARBED AS THE GREEN GOBLIN, ENGAGED IN A VICIOUS FIGHT WITH SONGBIRD, WHO ULTIMATELY DEFEATED HIM.

SUDDENLY RECOVERED FROM HIS NANOMECHANICAL SURGERY, BULLSEYE QUICKLY KILLED THE TELEPATHS KNOWN AS CAPRICE, MINDWAVE, MIRAGE AND BLUESTREAK, WHO HAD SECRETLY MANIPULATED THE THUNDERBOLTS INTO THIS ORGY OF VIOLENCE.

WHEN THE SMOKE CLEARED, PENANCE, WHO HAD MADE GREAT STRIDES IN DEALING WITH THE GUILT HE FELT FOR THE DEATHS IN STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT – TOLD SAMSON THAT HE WOULD CONTINUE TO REDEEM HIMSELF BY KEEPING WATCH OVER THUNDERBOLT MOUNTAIN. SAMSON THEN LEFT, CARRYING WITH HIM VIDEO EVIDENCE OF OSBORN’S RAMPAGE.

IN EXCHANGE FOR KEEPING OSBORN’S TRANSGRESSIONS SECRET, SONGBIRD DEMANDED THAT HER BOSS MAKE HER THE NEW TEAM LEADER. OSBORN AGREED, AND THEN REVEALED THAT “SOMEONE” HAD TOLD BULLSEYE THAT SONGBIRD HAD EARLIER LIED TO HIM, IN AN ATTEMPT TO GET HIM KILLED.

NOW, WITH THEIR BODIES HEALED BUT THEIR EMOTIONAL WOUNDS STILL FRESH, THE THUNDERBOLTS CONTINUE THEIR MISSION OF DETAINING UNREGISTERED SUPERHUMANS...



DENVER, COLORADO.

ZZZWARM

NOW
THERE'S
SOMETHING
YOU DON'T
SEE EVERY
DAY.



ON BOARD THE ZEUS,
THE THUNDERBOLTS'
MOBILE ASSAULT CRAFT.

MOONSTONE! ARE WE
STILL ON DIAL-UP?

I'D PREFER
AN I.D. ON OUR
TARGET SOMETIME
THIS FISCAL
YEAR.

TAKE YOUR
PILLS, NORMAN,
DATA'S UPLOADING
NOW... OH,
YOU'LL LOVE
THIS.

HE'S CALLED SWARM.
A ONETIME NAZI SCIENTIST
WHOSE BODY IS COMPOSED
OF KILLER BEES HE
CONTROLS.

APPARENTLY
THERE'S BEEN A
RECRUITMENT DRIVE,
THOUGH, BECAUSE HE
LOOKS TWENTY TIMES
AS BIG AS HE
SHOULD BE.

AND HERE I
THOUGHT THE BEES
WERE DYING OFF.
MORE TREE-HUGGING
HYPERBOLE FROM
AL GORE, I SUPPOSE.

WELL, **BULLSEYE**,
IT APPEARS YOUR
TRIUMPHANT RETURN WILL
HAVE TO WAIT. I DOUBT
EVEN YOU CAN KILL TWO
BILLION BEES ONE
BY ONE.

WON'T
KNOW UNTIL
I TRY.

CHARMING,
BUT NO. PILOT,
CUE UP THE
"FACES OF DEATH"
DVDs TO KEEP
OUR FRIEND
OCCUPIED.

ALL RIGHT. I LEFT A MASSAGE CHAIR, A
WET BAR AND A SECRETARY WILLING TO
DRESS UP IN A BLONDE WIG AND KNEE-HIGH
BOOTS SO I COULD EVALUATE
MY TEAM IN THE FIELD.

SEE IF BEING
CONTROLLED BY THOSE
TELEPATHS LEFT ANY MARKS
ON THEM. YOU'RE THE
PSYCHIATRIST. WHAT DO
YOU THINK?

**BULLSEYE'S
CRAZY.**

THANK YOU,

"RADIOACTIVE MAN SHOULD BE OUR BEST WEAPON. SWARM'S BEEN BEATEN BY BOTH NUCLEAR AND ELECTRICAL CHARGES BEFORE.

"THEY DISRUPTED HIS PSYCHIC LINK TO THE BEES. DR. CHEN SHOULD BE ABLE TO REPLICATE THAT EFFECT.

"OF COURSE, SWARM WAS MUCH SMALLER THEN, WHICH MAY BE WHY IT'S NOT WORKING NOW. BUT EVER SINCE DR. CHEN FOUND OUT CHINA DOESN'T WANT HIM BACK...

DDIIIEE

"...HE'S BEEN DEPRESSED. APATHETIC. PERHAPS HE'S JUST NOT TRYING VERY HARD."

"I SEE WHAT YOU MEAN. AND IF A FACEFUL OF BEES FAILS TO MOTIVATE HIM, I'M NOT VERY HOPEFUL ABOUT PHARMACEUTICALS.

"WHAT ABOUT THE SWORDSMAN? WAS HIS TURNING AGAINST US SOLELY DUE TO MENTAL MANIPULATION, OR IS IT SOMETHING HE'D DO ON HIS OWN?"

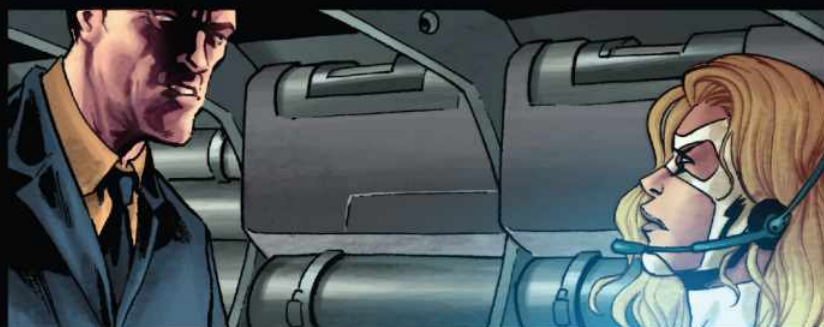
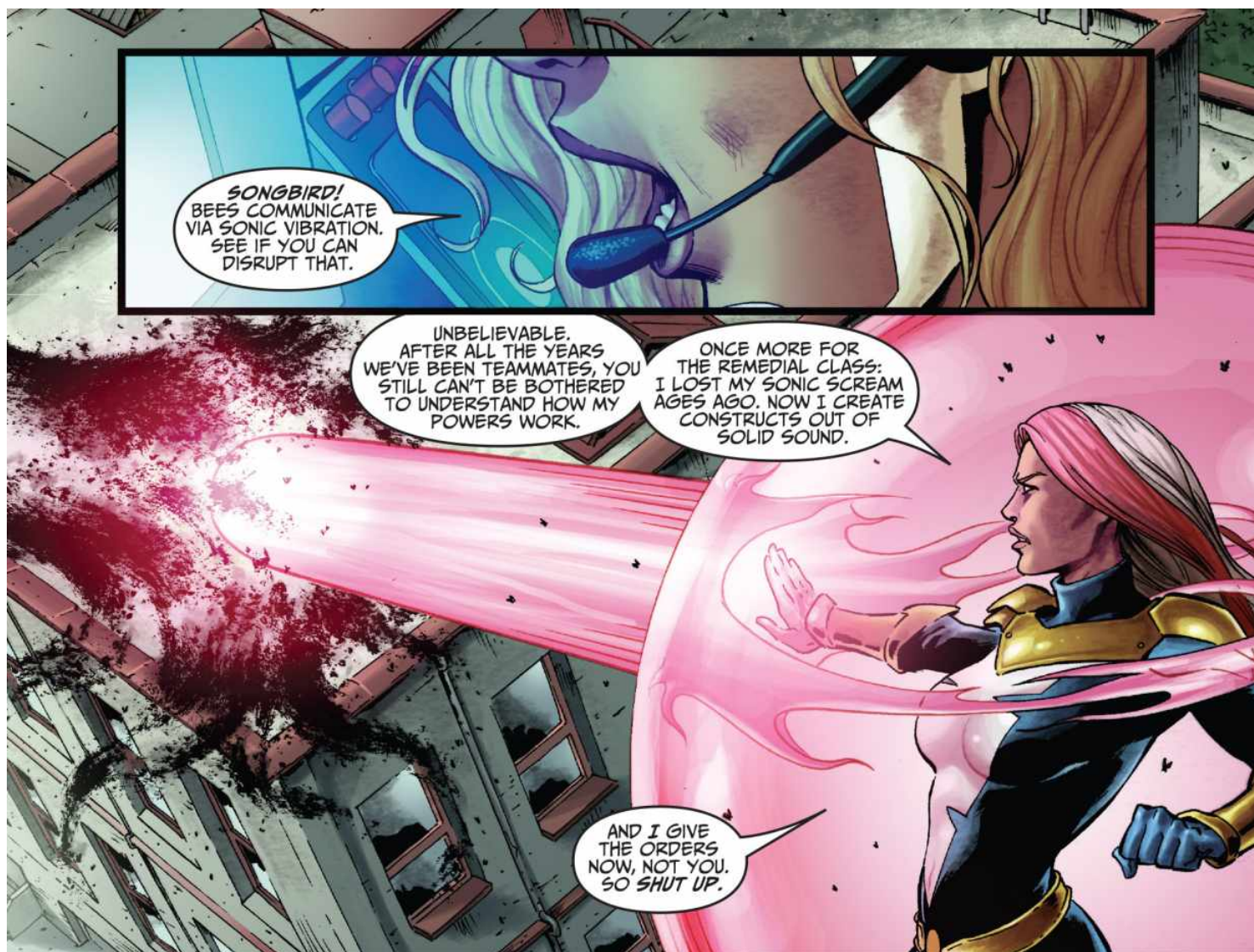
"HARD TO SAY. HE'S NOT THE MOST STABLE INDIVIDUAL. THIS IS A MAN WHOSE PRIME MOTIVE FOR WORKING WITH US IS YOUR PROMISE TO CLONE HIS DEAD SISTER, FOR WHOM HE HAS A...

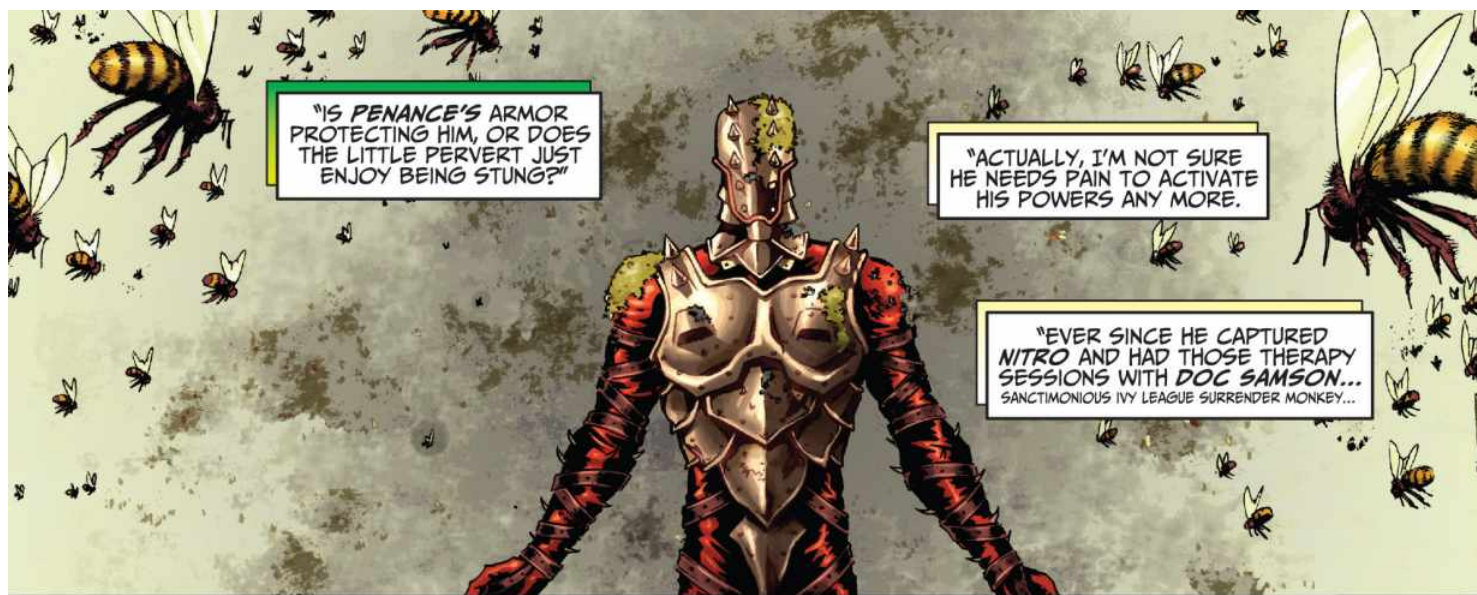
"...WELL, LET'S BE CHARITABLE AND CALL IT AN UNUSUALLY INTENSE ATTACHMENT. HE HAS NO LOYALTY TO US OR OUR MISSION.

"NOR HAS HE MADE IT A SECRET THAT HE THINKS HE'S BETTER THAN THE REST OF US. HE'S ABOUT AS FAR FROM A TEAM PLAYER AS YOU CAN GET.

"BUT AS LONG AS HE NEEDS YOU TO GET HIS SISTER BACK, HE'LL DO WHAT YOU SAY."

"GOOD. UNFORTUNATELY, UNLESS HIS ARMOR IS EQUIPPED WITH

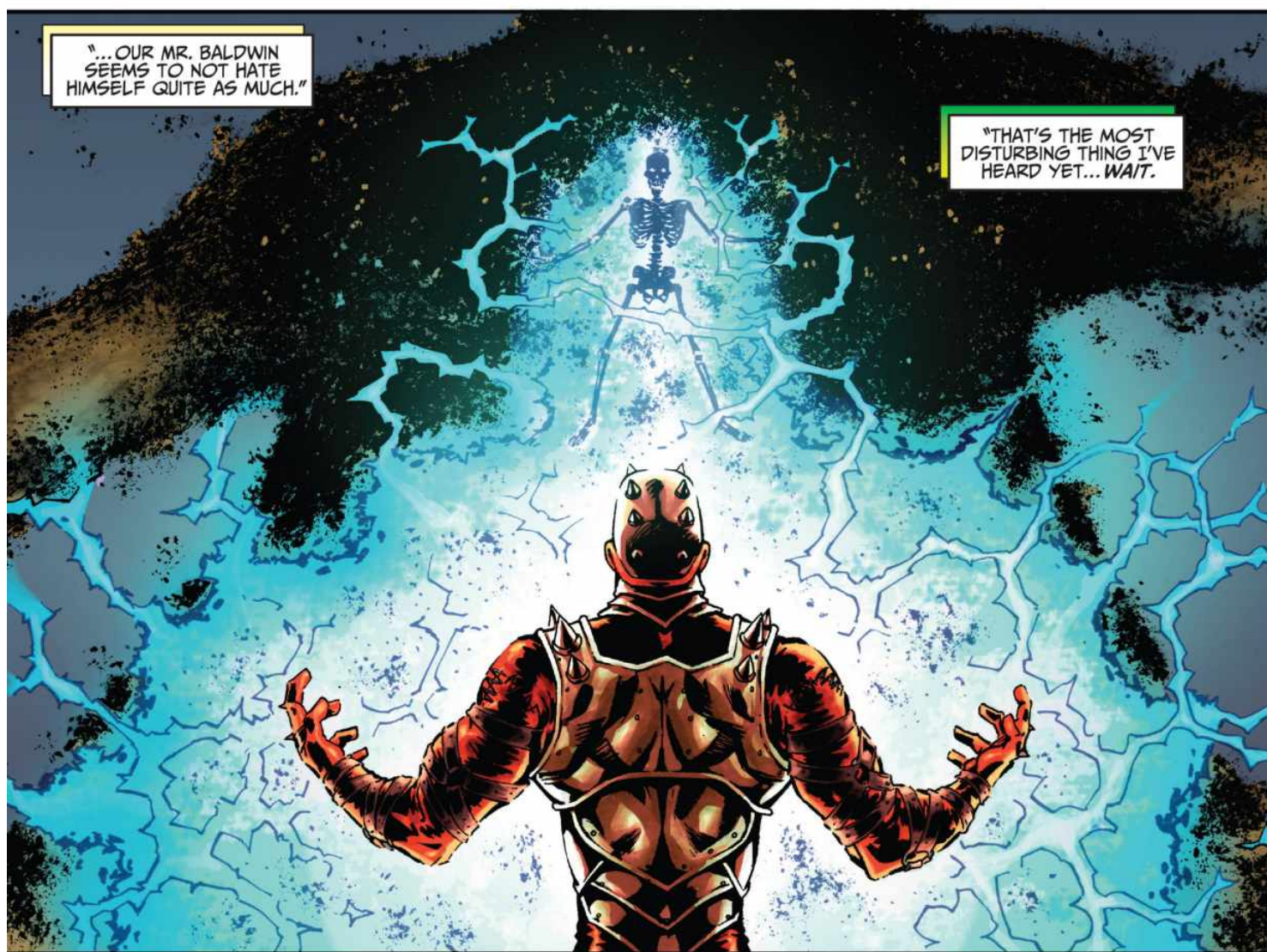




"IS **PENANCE'S** ARMOR PROTECTING HIM, OR DOES THE LITTLE PERVERT JUST ENJOY BEING STUNG?"

"ACTUALLY, I'M NOT SURE HE NEEDS PAIN TO ACTIVATE HIS POWERS ANY MORE."

"EVER SINCE HE CAPTURED **NITRO** AND HAD THOSE THERAPY SESSIONS WITH **DOC SAMSON**...
SANCTIMONIOUS IVY LEAGUE SURRENDER MONKEY..."



"...OUR MR. BALDWIN SEEMS TO NOT HATE HIMSELF QUITE AS MUCH."

"THAT'S THE MOST DISTURBING THING I'VE HEARD YET... WAIT."



"THERE--WHEN **PENANCE** SCATTERED THE BEES IN THE CENTER OF SWARM'S BODY--

"--DID I SEE A SKELETON?"

"THOSE WOULD BE THE REMAINS OF **DR. FRITZ VON MEYER**, THE NAZI WHO DECIDED PLAYING WITH



YOU DON'T SAY.

PILOT, RELEASE VENOM, PLEASE.

UH, NORMAN, I'D STRONGLY ADVISE AGAINST THAT. HIS POWERS AREN'T MUCH GOOD AGAINST SWARM, AND, WELL--

--FRANKLY, HIS MENTAL STATE HAS DETERIORATED ALARMINGLY.



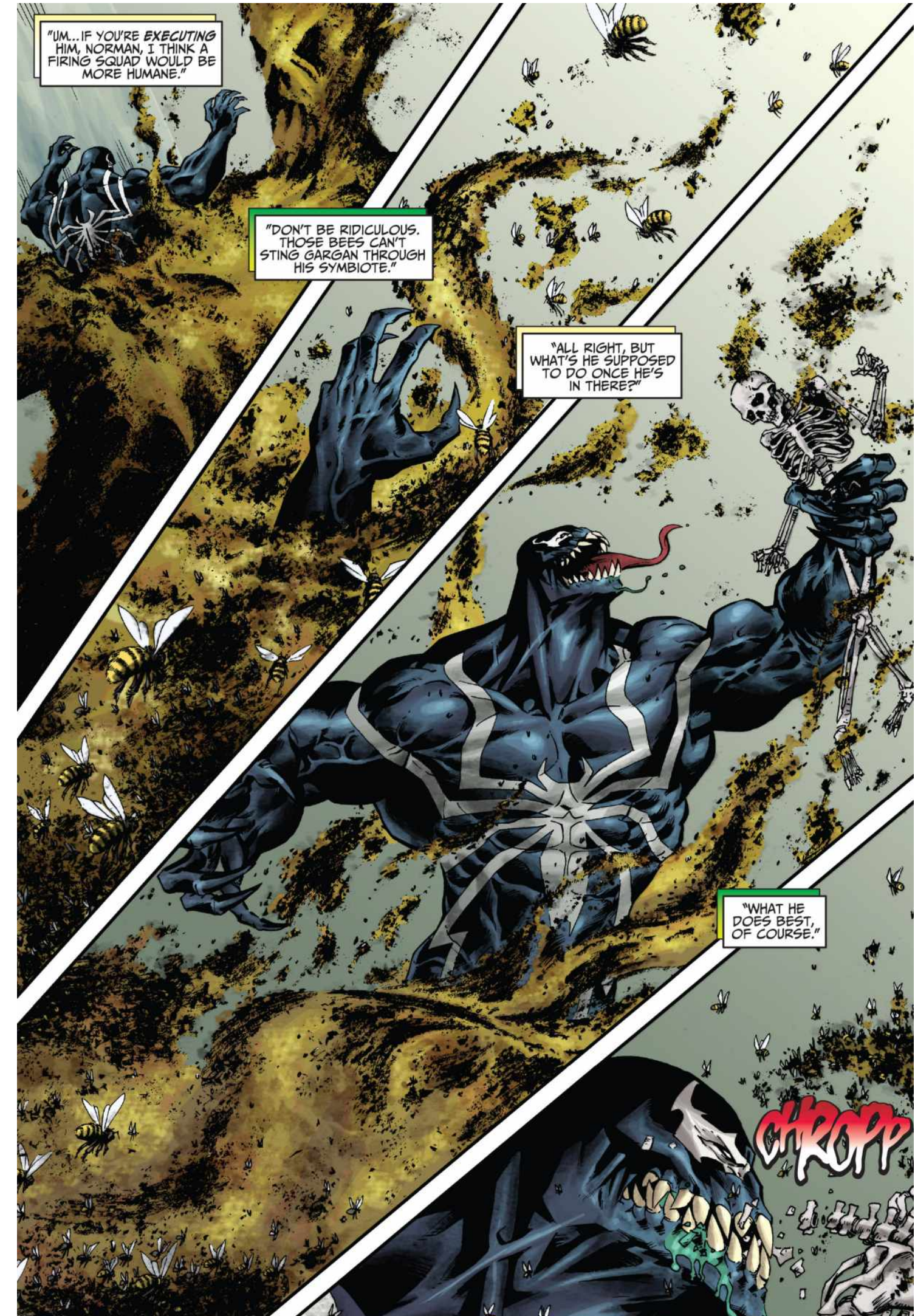
NONSENSE. I'VE KNOWN MAC GARGAN FOR YEARS. WE HAVE AN... UNDERSTANDING.

NO, SHE'S RIGHT, NORMAN. IT'S ALL I CAN DO TO KEEP MY SYMBIOTE UNDER CONTROL.

I... WANT TO HURT PEOPLE... HEAR THE WARM, WET SOUNDS... EAT THEM BITE DOWN ON THEIR FLESH CHEW ON THE BONES--



GOOD.



"UM...IF YOU'RE EXECUTING HIM, NORMAN, I THINK A FIRING SQUAD WOULD BE MORE HUMANE."

"DON'T BE RIDICULOUS. THOSE BEES CAN'T STING GARGAN THROUGH HIS SYMBIOTE."

"ALL RIGHT, BUT WHAT'S HE SUPPOSED TO DO ONCE HE'S IN THERE?"

"WHAT HE DOES BEST, OF COURSE."

CHROPP



THERE GO
THE BEES, BACK TO...
WHEREVER BEES GO.
YOU THINK SWARM'S
DEAD?

UNLIKELY.
IT'S HARD TO KILL
A DISEMBODIED
INTELLIGENCE, BUT
BEING *DIGESTED* SEEMS
TO HAVE AT LEAST
INCONVENIENCED
HIM.

NOT
SOMETHING THAT
HAPPENED TO YOU
IN THIS BATTLE.



I DON'T LIKE
BUGS. WHAT'S
YOUR PROBLEM?
WE WON.

WHAT'S MY
PROBLEM?

WE FOUGHT
LIKE A BUNCH
OF DRUNKEN
FRAT BOYS!

THOSE OF
MY PEOPLE WHO
AREN'T *PSYCHOTIC*
ARE ACTING LIKE
SPOILED POP STARS.



OUR JOB
IS TO TAKE DOWN
UNREGISTERED SUPER-
HUMANS. WHY DO YOU THINK
WE HAVEN'T BEEN ALLOWED
TO GO AFTER *DAREDEVIL?*
OR *LUKE CAGE?*

PERHAPS BECAUSE
WE CAN'T STOP A NAZI MADE
OF *BEES* WITHOUT EATING HIM,
WHILE YOU HIDE LIKE A SHRIeking
SCHOOLGIRL BECAUSE YOU
"DON'T LIKE BUGS"!!



LISTEN TO YOU,
MR. JUDGMENTAL.
YOU WANT TO HEAR
MY FINAL PSYCH
PROFILE?

OSBORN, NORMAN.
BIPOLAR, MEGALOMANIACAL
SADIST, YET POSSESSED OF
IMPRESSIVE EXECUTIVE SKILLS.
TRUE LEADERSHIP QUALITIES
AS YET UNDETERMINED.

COULD BECOME
ONE OF THE MOST DANGEROUS MEN IN
THE WORLD...OR FULLY DEGENERATE INTO A
CACKLING MANIAC. IT'S COMPLETELY UP TO HIM.



IF HE KEEPS
EXPECTING A TEAM OF
CRIMINALS AND MADMEN
TO PERFORM LIKE A
WELL-TRAINED MILITARY
UNIT, I KNOW WHERE
MY MONEY IS.

I THINK
I'LL GO UPDATE
MY RESUME.







SHE JUST **SHOWED UP** ABOUT TEN MINUTES AGO. NORMAN, ARE YOU RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS?

NO.
BUT I'D DAMN WELL LIKE TO KNOW WHO IS.



ANDREAS, THERE'S SOMETHING SUSPICIOUS GOING ON.

I REALIZE I'VE PLEDGED TO RESURRECT YOUR SISTER, BUT THIS *ISN'T* MY DOING.

I KNOW. I GREW TIRED OF YOUR ENDLESS DELAYS AND EXCUSES, SO I EMPLOYED AN OUTSIDE CONTRACTOR TO DO THE JOB.



YOU WHAT? WHO--

IT DOESN'T MATTER. THIS IS WHAT YOU **PROMISED ME**. MY SOLE REASON FOR AGREEING TO JOIN YOUR GROUP OF LUNATICS.



ARE YOU GOING BACK ON YOUR WORD NOW?
DO YOU PLAN TO RENEGE ON YOUR PROMISES TO ALL OF US?



I'LL WANT TO RUN SOME TESTS.

THUNDERBOLTS
MEDICAL CENTER.

WELL, WE'VE
SCANNED HER WITH THE
MOST SENSITIVE EQUIPMENT
KNOWN TO MAN. AND SHE'S
PRECISELY WHAT SHE
SEEMS TO BE.

AN EXACT
GENETIC DUPLICATE
OF ANDREA
STRUCKER.

HER BRAIN
PATTERNS ARE
ALSO A PERFECT
MATCH TO THE
ONES WE HAD
ON FILE.

AND YOU
HAVE NO MEMORY
OF HOW YOU GOT
HERE, YOUNG
LADY?

NO. IT'S
AS IF I WOKE
UP ON THE ROAD
LEADING TO YOUR
MOUNTAIN.

ANDREAS,
THIS HAS ALL BEEN
RATHER TAXING. I'D
LIKE TO LIE DOWN
NOW.

OF COURSE.
YOU'LL STAY IN MY
QUARTERS.

SHE'S GOING
NOWHERE BUT
QUARANTINE UNDER
ARMED GUARD UNTIL
I CAN DETERMINE WHAT
SHE IS AND **WHERE**
SHE CAME FROM.

YOUR MACHINES TOLD YOU
WHAT SHE IS--MY SISTER.
A **STRUCKER**. SHE WILL NOT
BE TREATED LIKE SOME
COMMON **CRIMINAL**.

IF YOU
TRY, I WILL FIGHT
YOU ALL TO THE
DEATH.

CALM YOURSELF, OSBORN. YOU FEAR
THAT, NOW THAT I HAVE MY SISTER,
I WILL NO LONGER FOLLOW
YOUR ORDERS.

BUT MY CONTRACT
WITH YOU IS NEARLY
UP. I'LL SERVE OUT
MY TERM.

I'D PREFER
NOT TO BE A
FUGITIVE WHEN
ANDREA AND I
START OUR
NEW LIFE.

FINE. BUT I'M POSTING GUARDS OUTSIDE
YOUR QUARTERS; THAT'S NON-NEGOTIABLE.
AND I WANT TO SEE YOU IN MY OFFICE
AS SOON AS SHE'S SITUATED.

VERY WELL.
COME ALONG, ANDREA.
THERE'S NO NEED FOR
YOU TO BE EXPOSED



YOU'RE GIVING HIM A LOT OF ROPE.

BELIEVE ME, I KNOW. BUT I CAN'T AFFORD OPEN REBELLION SO SOON AFTER THE LAST INCIDENT...AND HE MEANT EVERY WORD HE SAID.

YOU DO REALIZE WHO'S BEHIND THIS? I KNEW THERE WAS SOMETHING FISHY GOING ON WHEN ARNIM ZOLA ESCAPED US.

SWORDSMAN CONVENIENTLY FAILS TO APPREHEND A CRIMINAL GENETICIST, AND A FEW WEEKS LATER, A CLONE OF HIS SISTER SHOWS UP? EVEN VENOM COULD DO THE MATH.

RADIOACTIVE MAN WAS THERE WHEN IT HAPPENED. I'LL QUESTION HIM.



YES, DO THAT. BUT I WONDER... CLONING A SUPERHUMAN, THEN AGING HER TO ADULTHOOD IN A MATTER OF WEEKS? EVEN FOR ZOLA, THAT'S FAST.

NOT THAT IT MAKES MUCH DIFFERENCE. IF I CAN'T HOLD HIS SISTER OVER HIM, SWORDSMAN IS TOO MUCH OF A LOOSE CANNON TO PUT UP WITH.



WE COULD KICK THEM OUT.

SHE GOES NOWHERE UNTIL I GET SOME ANSWERS. AND THE ONLY "EARLY TERMINATION" CLAUSE IN THE CONTRACT THE SWORDSMAN SIGNED IS DEATH.

WHICH MAY BE A FINE IDEA, BUT I'LL NEED TO MOVE IN A WAY THAT DOESN'T UNDERMINE MY AUTHORITY WITH THE REST OF THE TEAM.

I'VE PROMISED THEM ALL SOMETHING. THEY HAVE TO BELIEVE I'LL DELIVER. I NEED A REASON BEFORE I TAKE ACTION AGAINST THE STRUCKERS.



OF COURSE, GIVEN WHO THEY ARE...I DON'T IMAGINE I'LL HAVE TO WAIT VERY LONG.



THE SWORDSMAN'S
QUARTERS.

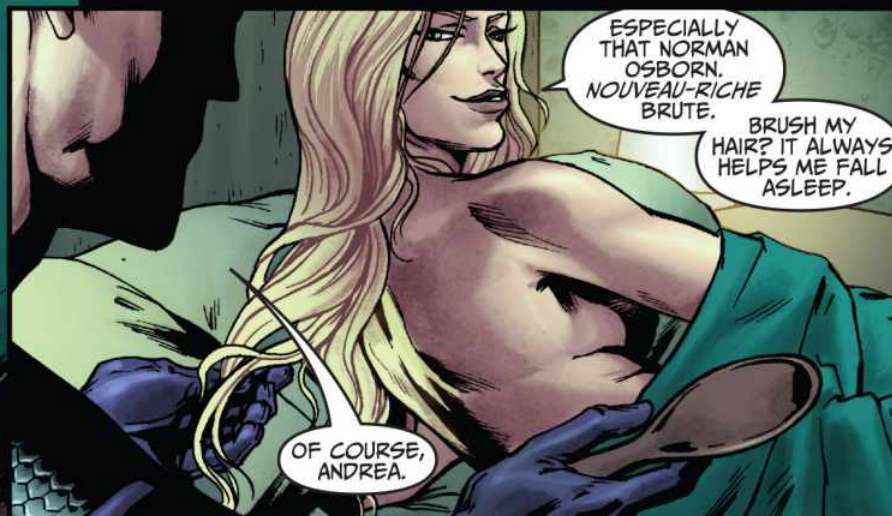
THE BED IS
YOURS, OF COURSE.
I'LL HAVE A COT
BROUGHT IN FOR
MYSELF.

THAT'LL
SURPRISE
THEM. THEY DON'T
THINK I'VE HEARD
THE VILE THINGS
THEY SAY ABOUT
WHY I WANTED
YOU BACK.



NO ONE
UNDERSTANDS
THE TRUE NATURE
OF OUR LOVE.
THE PURITY. THE...
INTENSITY.

HOW
COULD THEY?
THEY'RE
PEONS.



ESPECIALLY
THAT NORMAN
OSBORN.
NOUVEAU-RICHE
BRUTE.

BRUSH MY
HAIR? IT ALWAYS
HELPS ME FALL
ASLEEP.

OF COURSE,
ANDREA.



BUT REALLY,
ANDREAS ... TO SEE
MY BROTHER BOWING
AND SCRAPING TO A
LOUT LIKE THAT?
IT HURTS ME.

QUITE FRANKLY,
I'M DISAPPOINTED
IN YOU.

I ONLY
AGREED TO WORK
WITH HIM IN ORDER
TO GET YOU
BACK.



AND NOW
I'M BACK,
ANDREAS.

YES.

YES,
YOU ARE



NORMAN OSBORN'S OFFICE.

I'M NOT AN IDIOT, SWORDSMAN. YOUR "OUTSIDE CONTRACTOR" IS ARNIM ZOLA. YOU LET A CRIMINAL, A MURDERER GO FREE TO SERVE YOUR OWN PURPOSES.

YOU'RE A MURDERER. MOST OF US ON THIS TEAM ARE. AND YET WE'RE FREE, MORE OR LESS, BECAUSE IT SUITS SOMEONE'S PURPOSE. I MAKE NO APOLOGY.



DR. CHEN ADMITTED TO ME HE HEARD YOU AND ZOLA TALKING. ZOLA SPECIFICALLY SAID HE COULD RESTORE YOUR SISTER'S BODY, BUT NOT HER MIND.

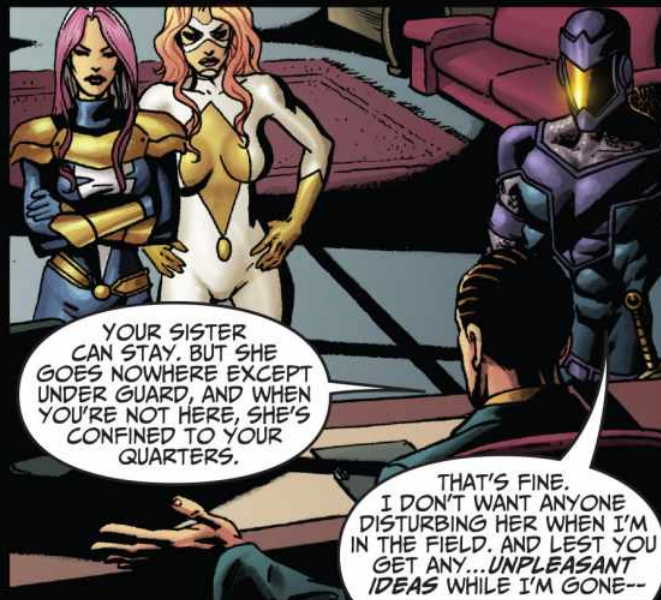
CLEARLY HE'S BEEN IN TOUCH WITH OUR FATHER. THEY'RE OLD FRIENDS, AND FATHER HABITUALLY BACKED UP OUR MEMORIES--AS WELL AS HIS OWN--FOR THIS VERY PURPOSE.



YOU'RE SPECULATING. THEN YOU HAVEN'T ACTUALLY HEARD FROM ZOLA RECENTLY.

NO. BUT THAT'S HARDLY SURPRISING. HE HAS GOOD REASONS FOR SECRECY. IF THIS IS GOING TO BE A PROBLEM, MY SISTER AND I WILL GLADLY LEAVE.

YOU'D LIKE THAT, WOULDN'T YOU? NO, I'VE DISCUSSED IT WITH MOONSTONE AND SONGBIRD, AND THOUGH WE ALL HAVE GRAVE RESERVATIONS, WE AGREE.



YOUR SISTER CAN STAY. BUT SHE GOES NOWHERE EXCEPT UNDER GUARD, AND WHEN YOU'RE NOT HERE, SHE'S CONFINED TO YOUR QUARTERS.

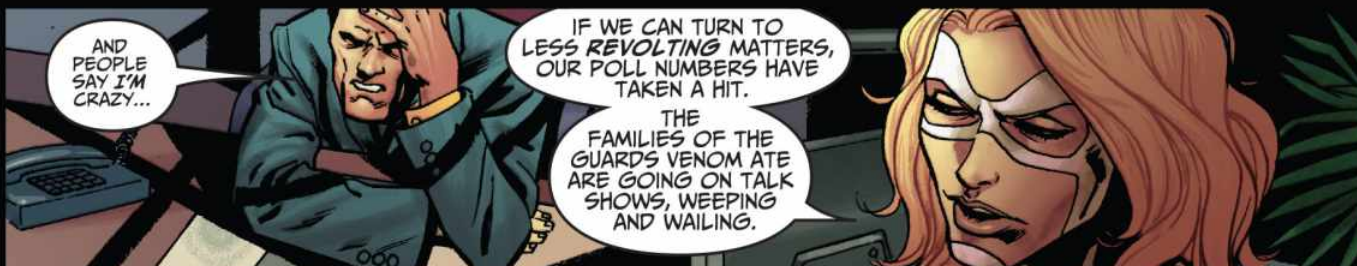
THAT'S FINE. I DON'T WANT ANYONE DISTURBING HER WHEN I'M IN THE FIELD. AND LEST YOU GET ANY...UNPLEASANT IDEAS WHILE I'M GONE--



--I HAVEN'T LEFT HER DEFENSELESS. IT'S TRUE OUR ENERGY POWERS ONLY WORK WHEN WE'RE TOUCHING. BUT I'VE MADE SURE PART OF ME WILL ALWAYS BE WITH HER.

YOU--SKINNED YOURSELF?

OF COURSE. I SKINNED HER WHEN SHE DIED, TO WRAP MY SWORD HILT IN, DIDN'T I? THE LEAST I COULD DO IS RETURN THE FAVOR.



AND PEOPLE SAY I'M CRAZY...

IF WE CAN TURN TO LESS REVOLTING MATTERS, OUR POLL NUMBERS HAVE TAKEN A HIT.

THE FAMILIES OF THE GUARDS VENOM ATE ARE GOING ON TALK SHOWS, WEEPING AND WAILING.







TEDDY?
NO...I MEANT
GENIS.

HE WAS
A FRIEND...
MORE THAN
A FRIEND.
HE--

ANOTHER
SON? I HAVE--
--NO.
I HAVE NOTHING.
I AM NOT--

BULLSEYE,
DON'T!!

HNH!

YOU
MISSED. GET
OUT OF THE WAY
WHILE I RIP OUT
HIS--

KOAKOOM





ALIEN...
SCUM.

YOU
SHOULDN'T
BE HERE!
YOU DIED!
EATEN
AWAY BY
CANCER!

HKK--!

YOU'RE
THE CANCER.
AND I'M
GOING TO
BURN YOU
OUT.

GOKK!

YOU
CAN'T DO
IT, CAN
YOU?

AND MY
GUESS IS
YOU'RE NOT
EXACTLY
WHO YOU'RE
DRESSED
AS.





MY NAME'S
NORMAN OSBORN.
THIS IS MY OFFICE
YOU TRASHED
AND MY PEOPLE
YOU SMACKED
AROUND.

WOULD
YOU LIKE TO
HAVE A DRINK
AND TALK
ABOUT IT?

RUNNING THE ASYLUM *Part 1*

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